

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. Gas-generating substance for a motor vehicle safety device, comprising a mixture of N₂O, NO and one or more fuels which are solid at room temperature and standard pressure.
2. Gas-generating substance according to claim 1, characterised in that it additionally contains, in order to control the reactivity of the gases, at least one inert gas selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide, air, helium, neon and/or argon.
3. Gas-generating substance according to claim 1, characterised in that it contains additions of smell-intensive gases in small amounts for detecting leaks.
4. Gas-generating substance according to claim 1, characterised in that it contains additions for improving the smell properties of the combustion gases in the when utilization takes place.
5. Gas-generating substance according to claim 4, characterised in that the additions for improving the smell properties of the combustion gases comprise vanillin.

6. Gas-generating substance according to claim 1, characterised in that the one or more fuels comprise polymers of a material selected from the group consisting of ethylene, propylene, isoprene, and styrene.

7. Gas-generating substance according to claim 1, characterised in that the one or more fuels comprise oxygen-containing fuels derived from a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl acetates, polymethacrylates, polyterephthalates, polyesters, polyethers, polycarbonates, polyoxymethylenes, oligosaccharides, polysaccharides, cellulose, starch, polyvinyl acetals and polyvinyl alcohols.

8. Gas-generating substance according to claim 1, further comprising explosive substances as additional reactive components of the fuels.

9. Gas-generating substance according to claim 1, further comprising one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of nitroguanidine (NiGu) 5-aminotetrazole, 5-aminotetrazole nitrate, bistetrazole amine, bistetrazole, aminoguanidine nitrate, diaminoguanidine nitrate, triaminoguanidine nitrate, guanidine nitrate, dicyanodiamidine nitrate, diaminoguanidine azotetrazolate, nitrotriazolone, dicanediamicune nitrate, hexogen, and octogen.

10. Gas-generating substance according to claim 1, further comprising an additional fuel selected from the group consisting of urea, fumaric acid, ascorbic acid, oxalic acid, cork, wood, aluminium, titaniumboron, silicon, nitrides, azides and B_3N_3 .

11. Gas-generating substance according to claim 1, characterised in that the one or more fuels are in the form of powder, granules, pressings, cut fibres, twisted fibres, mats, woven fabrics, or porous foams.

12. Gas-generating substance according to claim 1, characterised in that the one or more fuels are surface-treated by being impregnated or mixed with liquids or pasty substances, to control the burn-off.

13. Gas-generating substance according to claim 1, further comprising a catalyst selected from the group consisting of ferrocene and derivatives, iron acetylacetonate and copper acetylacetonate.

14. Gas-generating substance according to claim 1, further comprising one or more oxidising agents selected from the group consisting of nitrates of alkali and alkaline earth elements, perchlorates of alkali and alkaline earth elements, ammonium nitrate, ammonium perchlorate, zinc peroxide, perborates, peroxodisulphates, permanganates, tin dioxide, manganese dioxide, oxidising agents derived from nitramines and mixtures of these

components.

15. Gas-generating substance according to claim 3, wherein the smell-intensive gases comprise a mercaptan.

16. Gas-generating substance according to claim 1, further comprising a porosity generator selected from the group consisting of ammonium hydrogencarbonate, acetone dicarboxylic acid, azoiso-butyronitrile and hollow plastics spheres.